

Rendered Meals to Mexico

Mexico prohibits the importation of ruminant origin meat and bone meal (MBM), including mixed species MBM from the United States. Facilities desiring to export other species based rendered meals* to Mexico must be dedicated (i.e., handle only NON-ruminant species and non-ruminant materials) and must be SAGARPA approved.

Rendering facilities that wish to be approved by SAGARPA for the export of non-ruminant meals to Mexico must:

1. Process only NON-ruminant species and materials.
2. Meet the following processing/documentation requirements:
 - a. Heat materials to a minimum temperature of 80 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 30 minutes (facilities with continuous systems must provide information on transit time to enable VS to determine if the processing method is equivalent);
 - b. Ensure maximum moisture of product does not exceed 10% at the end of the cooker;
 - c. Maintain records documenting the exit moisture for each processed lot;
 - d. Maintain processing records (i.e., time/temperature) for each lot of product manufactured;
 - e. Keep records of all incoming raw materials that includes the type and origin of the raw material, quantity of material, and date received;
 - f. Keep detailed sales records which include: name of marketing company, feed manufacturing plant, or producer who bought the product, as well as the corresponding receipt; and
 - g. Have control processes in place to ensure that the facility does not at any time process ruminant tissues.

The manager/owner of any facility that wants to be approved by SAGARPA to export non-ruminant meals to Mexico should contact the VS Area Office responsible for the State in which the facility is located to arrange an inspection. After a VS Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) inspects the facility to verify that they meet Mexico's requirements, an inspection report is completed and a copy is sent to USDA, APHIS, VS-NCIE, Animal Products Exports Staff, in Riverdale, Maryland. The Animal Products Exports Staff assigns the facility an official APHIS approval number (if the facility does not already have one), and notifies SAGARPA to add the facility to their list of approved US rendering facilities.

Once SAGARPA acknowledges receipt of the request, the facility is added to the VS database of rendering facilities approved to export to Mexico. VS Area Offices will not endorse a VS 16-4, Animal Products Export (Health) Certificate, for any facility not included in the list of approved facilities.

* Fish meal facilities, spray dried facilities, and digest manufacturers are exempt from these requirements.